

1903.


The River Tees Port Sanitary Authority.

SEVENTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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The River Tees Port Sanitary Authority

*Was Constituted by an Order of the Local Government Board, issued on
the 2nd day of January, 1886.*

The Members of the Board are Elected as follows:—

BY THE MIDDLESBROUGH CORPORATION.

S. A. SADLER, Chairman.

T. R. DENT,	J. McLAUCHLAN.	ALEX. MAIN.
J. FORBES.	R. BURROWS.	W. HARKESS.

BY THE STOCKTON CORPORATION.

A. G. RUDD.	R. HIND.	J. H. NIGHTSCALES.
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BY THE ESTON LOCAL BOARD.

D. EVANS.	T. DAVIES.
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BY THE THORNABY CORPORATION.

WM. ANDERSON.	H. TAYLOR.
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BY THE STOCKTON RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

C. L. BELL.	J. G. PICKERING.
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BY THE NORMANBY LOCAL BOARD.

JOHN ATKINSON.

OFFICES OF BOARD ... MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

FLOATING HOSPITAL ... ON THE RIVER TEES,
OPPOSITE ESTON JETTY.

1 9 0 3 .

The 17th Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

1st JANUARY, 1904.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Tees Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1903.

During the year just ended, 10 vessels having sickness on board either at the time of the visit or during the voyage were visited, and 13 cases of disease medically investigated. Four of these were cases of Zymotic disease. These were removed to your Floating Hospital for isolation and treatment. They all recovered.

Following is a list of ships and of cases of disease dealt with by myself during the year :—

1903. *January 16th*, at Eston Jetty, 11 a.m.—S.S. “Skarpsno,” from Carthagen. Two seamen were found ill, one suffering from pains in the stomach and the other from rheumatism. They were prescribed for and allowed to proceed.

June 3rd.—S.S. “Thornaby,” from Almeria. The Chief Officer was found to be suffering from Small Pox. He was removed to the Floating Hospital, and discharged cured on the 3rd July.

June 9th.—S.S. “Max.” at Deep Water Buoys, 6-30 p.m., from Lulea, in Sweden. An A.B. was found ill with Pneumonia and was recommended to a General Hospital, but preferring to remain on board he was treated there and recovered.

June 10th.—S.S. “Thornaby,” from Almeria. The Second Engineer was removed to the Floating Hospital for observation, and discharged on the 27th June. The case turned out to be a mild case of modified Small Pox.

September 18th, at Ninth Buoy. S.S. "Biak Bat," from Ergasteria. Chief Mate. Boatswain, and Carpenter were found suffering from Malarial Fever. They were removed to the Cottage Hospital at North Ormesby. The Chief Mate died on the 22nd September. The Boatswain and Carpenter were discharged cured on the 24th September, and rejoined the vessel.

September 25th, at Newport Wharf—S.S. "Eros," from Almeria. Chief Mate, Mr. Jones, was removed to the Floating Hospital for observation, and was discharged on the 31st October. The case developed into one of Continued Fever.

October 15th, at Deep Water Buoys.—S.S. "Dwina," from Windaw. One seaman ill with Abdominal Pains. He was prescribed for and allowed to proceed home.

October 30th, at Eston Jetty.—S.S. "Jessie," from Alaki, with the Boatswain ill with Enteric Fever. He was removed to the Floating Hospital, and discharged on the 20th November.

November 2nd. Dutch sailing vessel "Peitronella," from Mulheim. The Cook complained of shivers and feverishness. He was at once removed to the Floating Hospital for observation, and was discharged on the 7th November.

Ten ships were thus reported to have sickness on board, or to have had it recently.

Compared with previous years, the following results are obtained:—

1896	...	...	15
1897	...	...	30
1898	...	...	27
1899	...	...	18
1900	...	...	17
1901	...	...	12
1902	...	...	14
1903	...	...	10

SMALL POX.

Two of the cases of Zymotic disease were those of Small Pox. They were both from the s.s. "Thornaby," from Almeria and Las Palmas. The vessel left Almeria on the 23rd May and arrived here on the 3rd June. While in the Bay of Biscay the First Mate complained of headache and general malaise, and two days later shewed spots on his skin which were at the time thought to be the effects of a cold, but they kept out and patient felt worse, and on arrival here he was found to have well marked Small Pox. The patient was removed to the Floating Hospital, the ship disinfected, and 12 members of the crew re-vaccinated, 4 of the remainder of the crew of 21 had been re-vaccinated quite recently, and 4 refused to submit. The patient had been vaccinated as an infant only, and had three scars. He had not been ashore anywhere for a month, but he probably caught the infection from the dock labourers who came on board at Almeria. He was discharged on the 3rd July.

On 10th June the Second Engineer of the same ship became so ill that I sent him to the Hospital. While there he shewed spots indistinguishable from those of Small Pox. He had been exposed to infection before he was re-vaccinated, and I concluded it was a case of mild modified Small Pox. He was discharged on the 28th June. Vaccinated in infancy only.

This disease has manifested itself in many of the provincial towns in England and Scotland, notably at Manchester and Liverpool in the early part, and towards the end of the year in the towns of North of England. Probably there is a good deal at the Mediterranean ports.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of this disease was removed from the s.s. "Eros," at Newport Wharf, from Almeria, on 26th September. The patient, the Chief Mate, began to suffer on the 23rd from shivers, feverishness, and headache, but kept at his duty until the 25th, when I found him with a temperature of 102·6., flushed face, and rapid pulse. The nature of the disease was not at first apparent, and as the patient had had Fever on the West Coast of Africa some years previously, Malaria was suggested. He was admitted into Hospital, and the subsequent course of the case, though extremely irregular and atypical, proved conclusively that it was Enteric. He was discharged on 31st October.

The second case was found on the 30th inst. on board s.s. "Jessie," at Eston Jetty from Ergesteria, in Greece. All the crew were apparently well on the arrival of the ship in port five days before, though I found that one man had been landed at Algiers on 15th suffering from Typhoid, and a Fireman had had an attack of Diarrhoea during the voyage. The patient, the Boatswain, had been allowed ashore and had taken a great deal of drink. Four days later he was unfit for duty. At my visit he was very feverish and had all the symptoms of Enteric. He was removed to Hospital and the ship disinfected, and as many as possible of the paid-off men followed to their home or lodgings. The disease took a short but characteristic course, and the man was discharged on the 20th November. It is probable that the disease had run some of its course while on the voyage.

Of Cholera, Yellow Fever, and Bubonic Plague we have at this port had no cases nor suspected cases during the year. The Plague prevailed during the early part of 1903 to a larger extent in India than in 1902, reaching at one time the enormous total of 34,000 deaths per week. An outbreak occurred in Hong Kong and large numbers of cases occurred; some also occurred at New-chang in China. Rio de Janeiro has had a few cases; Mauritius has not been free from the disease for years. The disease made its appearance at Marseilles in September. It was traced along the trade route to Constantinople and Smyrna.

THE FLOATING HOSPITAL.

The admissions into Hospital during the year were 5 and they all recovered. The average stay was 22·4 days.

Your Hospital has fully maintained its up-to-date character as a well-equipped establishment in enabling us to deal with these cases promptly as they occurred. Some few necessary repairs to funnels and manholes have been carried out.

RECORD OF SHIPPING.

Subjoined is a record of shipping for the last few years, supplied by the Tees Conservancy Commissioners, through the courtesy of Mr. Amos, their Secretary :—

Year.	Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1894	5,390	2,393,537
1895	5,272	2,379,751
1896	5,618	2,564,679
1897	5,692	2,627,680
1898	5,298	2,485,004
1899	5,639	2,603,072
1900	5,140	2,479,851
1901	4,691	2,209,083
1902	4,945	2,379,512
1903	5,264	2,548,726

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The usual Sanitary inspections have been carried out by Inspector Jefferson, and the following is his statement of the work done during the year :—

Number of Vessels inspected from 1st January to 31st December, 1903 :—

British Steam Ships	2181
British Sailing Ships	125
Foreign Steam Ships	934
Foreign Sailing Ships	133
Total Ships	<u>3373</u>
Extra Visits	127
Total Visits	<u>3500</u>

During the year 449 Lighters arrived, and also 15 new vessels for engines.

The Nationalities of the Ships are as follows :—

British Steam Ships	2181
British Sailing Ships	125
Norwegian Steam Ships	207
Norwegian Sailing Ships	49
German Steam Ships	184
German Sailing Ships	3
Spanish Steam Ships	152
Swedish Steam Ships	127
Swedish Sailing Ships	19
Dutch Steam Ships	71
Dutch Sailing Ships	5
Danish Steam Ships	37
Danish Sailing Ships	29
Russian Steam Ships	31
Russian Sailing Ships	26
Belgian Steam Ships	68
French Steam Ships	20
French Sailing Ships	2
Japanese Steam Ships	27
Austrian Steam Ships	6
Greek Steam Ships	2
Italian Steam Ships	1
Australian Steam Ships	1
Total	<u>3373</u>

The Structural and other defects observed include the following :—

			NUMBER OF CASES.	REMEDIED UNDER NOTICE.
Dirty Forecastles ...	...	...	11	11
Dirty Water Closets ...	...	..	14	14
Defective Ventilation ...	...	...	9	8
Paints in Fore Locker ...	...	...	2	2
Dirty Bilges ...	...	...	4	4
Total			<u>40</u>	<u>39</u>

Compared with previous years, the following results are obtained :—

YEAR.	ARRIVALS.	SHIPS WITH DEFECTS, &c. NUMBER.	REMEDIED.
1896	3377	95	86
1897	3484	83	76
1898	3003	65	63
1899	3088	55	52
1900	3313	66	63
1901	3321	54	51
1902	3396	37	35
1903	3373	40	39

The number of Sanitary defects detected this year is again comparatively low, and the Inspector informs me that far greater attention is now being paid to the health and comfort of the seamen on board ships reaching this port than was the custom in the past.

Nine vessels have been disinfected during the year that have had sickness on board, and all old beds and clothing burnt.

The new pumps and other repairs to the “Osprey’s” machinery have been duly carried out to the satisfaction of the Authority.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to express my thanks to your Officers for advice and assistance; and particularly to Mr. Sheridan, the Collector of H. M. Customs and his Officers for their constant courtesy and prompt assistance in enabling me to visit ships from infected ports, and in other directions.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WATKIN EDWARDS, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

